

## **IKF – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY**

In order to better meet the individual needs of each student, Epping High School offers a differentiated diploma program. In addition to the standard diploma there is also a basic and honors option defined herein.

**STATE STANDARD DIPLOMA** – This diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the State of New Hampshire minimum requirements for a high school diploma. The approval of the school administration and Superintendent is required to be considered for this diploma.

<u>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
English	4
Math (including Algebra I *)	3
Science (including Biology & Physical Science)	2
Social Studies (including World/US/NH History, Civics & Economics)	2 ½
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Computers	½
Electives	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

\* Earned through a sequential, integrated, or applied program.

**DISTRICT STANDARD DIPLOMA** – This diploma is awarded in regular circumstances and is based on the Epping School District minimum requirements for a high school diploma.

<u>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
English	4
Math (including Algebra I)	3
Science (including Biology & Physical Science)	3
Social Studies (including World Cultures, Civics & US History)	3
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Computers	½
Electives	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 ½</b>

**HONORS DIPLOMA** – This diploma is awarded in special circumstances and is based on the Epping School District honors requirements for a high school diploma. Students must meet the

credit requirements listed below, have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or better, and have been enrolled in two or more honors/advanced placement courses.

<u>REQUIRED SUBJECTS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
English	4
Math (must include Algebra I, Algebra II & Geometry)	4
Science (must include Biology & Physical Science)	3
Social Studies (must include World Cultures, Civics & US History)	3
World Languages (must be in same language)	3
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Fine Arts (Art/Drama/Music)	½
Computers	½
Electives	5 ½
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

**CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION OR ATTENDANCE** – Students with individualized education plans (IEPs) may earn certificates of completion or attendance, but shall not be equal to a regular high school diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of Education. It is important to note that all students with disabilities shall be entitled to continue with their high school educational program until such time as each student has earned a regular high school diploma or has attained the age of 21, whichever comes first. Certificates of completion indicate that the school district has recognized the fulfillment of both the educational objectives and the time requirements of an individual’s IEP. Certificates of attendance indicate that the school district has recognized the fulfillment of a 4 years minimum attendance. Certificates of completion or attendance are subject to the approval of the High School Principal and Superintendent or designee.

**CERTIFICATES OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**– Students may earn certificates of high school equivalency, but shall not be equal to a regular high school diploma per the State of New Hampshire Department of education. These certificates are also called a general educational development certificate (GED). Certificates of high school equivalency are subject to the approval of the High School Principal and Superintendent or designee.

**AWARDING OF CREDIT** – A unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course or learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards. In some cases, course credit may also be awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the required competencies for the course. Assessment of mastery will be the responsibility of the High School Principal, and will be granted in accordance with school district policy.

Credit will be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the high school experience. Awarding of credit will be in accordance with all applicable School Board Policy.

**ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTIONS** - In some cases, credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction. Such alternative methods of instruction may include extended learning opportunities, distance education, alternative learning plans, or others approved by the Superintendent or designee. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined by the High School Principal on a case-by-case basis.

**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PLANS** - As an alternative to satisfying the provisions of this policy and related State requirements, students may also graduate from high school and obtain either a high school diploma or its equivalent by participating in an alternative learning plan or program subject to applicable School Board Policy.

**PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION EVENTS** – Only students receiving a high school diploma from Epping High School may participate in the high school graduation ceremony and associated events and activities. Exceptions may be made for home school students and foreign exchange students.

Home school students that have participated in high school curricular, co-curricular activities, and or extra-curricular activities as part of their home school program may attend high school graduation activities with their peers. Home school students may only participate in graduation activities one time and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to enrolled high school seniors that are graduating. Graduation activities include activities prior to graduation ceremony, the graduation ceremony, and activities after the graduation ceremony. The school may limit the home school student's participation due to age appropriateness. Home school students do not receive an Epping School District issued certificate or diploma. However, the parent may supply the school with a home issued certificate, which fits within the diploma cover, for presentation at the graduation ceremony. In the absence of a home issued certificate, the school may issue a notation of appreciation for participating as a home school student in high school activities. All presentations are made by school administrators or district officials.

Foreign exchange students may attend high school graduation activities if a member of the senior class. Foreign exchange students may only participate in graduation activities one time and are subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to enrolled high school seniors that are graduating. Graduation activities include activities prior to graduation ceremony, the graduation ceremony, and activities after the graduation ceremony. The school may limit the foreign exchange student's participation due to age appropriateness. Foreign exchange students do not receive an Epping School District issued certificate or diploma. However, the host family may supply the school with a home issued certificate or note, which fits within the diploma cover, for presentation at the graduation ceremony. In the absence of a host family issued certificate, the school may issue a notation of appreciation for participating as a foreign exchange student in high school activities. All presentations are made by school administrators or district officials.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed. 306.04 (a)(14) (Policy Development)

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed. 306.14 (f) (Basic Instructional Standards)

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Ed. 306.27 (d,m) (Required Subjects and Unit of Credit for High School Graduation)

IHBG (Home Education Instruction)

IHBG-R (Regulations for Home Education Instruction)

Handbook (Student)

APPROVED/REVISED: December 17, 2009, August 4, 2011, March 1, 2012

PREVIOUS POLICY: September 10, 1980 “Graduation”, September 10, 1992 “Policy on Standard/Alternative Diplomas”